BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

OLD SETTLERS.

JUDGE EDWIN SHERMAN LELAND.

(Concluded.)

In the year 1839 Judge Leland, having purchased a claim to a tract of U. S. land near Oregon, in Ogle county, moved onto it in order to protect his claim, and he after wards obtained a patent He remained in Ogle county about four years, and practiced was there married on the 15th of April to Margaret B. Miles, who was a daughter of George Miles, of Baltimore, then deceased. Her mother's malden name was Sarah B. Blagge. The husband and wife went to Ogle county soon after their marriage, where they resided, part of the time in a log cabin on the farm, and part of the time in Oregon, until the winter of 1843-4, when they moved to Ottawa. Taking each other as companions for life, "for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer," they have for nearly forty-seven years endured together without unreasonable complaining the "poor er and the worse," and enjoyed with a thankful spirit the "richer and the better," and they have together undergone with for titude and resignation the hardships and trials of a pioneer life. Their religion through life has been Unitarianism, quite

prevalent about Boston, and being the same as that of their parents. Two of their children, George M. and Sherman, were born in Ogle county, and their daughter, now Mrs. Gilbert, in Ottawa after their removal here. The only official position he held in Ogle county was that of county treasurer. Society was in an unsettled state in that county when he went there, and many kinds of crime were quite common, and criminals seemed to be banded together for the purpose. This condition of affairs became so serious that attempts were made by the better class of citizens to drive the ruffians out of the respectable farmer, named Campbell, who had taken an active part against these crimthem was followed, leading to the place near Daysville and, after a trial which rendered their guilt sufficiently clear, the father ful mode of punishment.

private conveyance as far as Burlington, lows, and examined that and intermediate tion. The nomination and election of Judge you have committed and in my judgment Ford as Governor, however, prevented its consummation. If Judge Ford had not been so nominated and elected, Judge Leland's life would since then have been another and a different one from what it has been. Even his grand children, if he had had any, would undoubtedly have been somebody else. Let mitted, and the frightful frequency with many clients who have placed their confiany one of mature years look back over his which of late human life has been intenown life, and he will realize how true is the following saying of Lord Greville: "Surely no man can reflect, without won ler, upon and properly had, that the law should have the vicissitudes of human life arising from its course. causes in the highest degree accidental and trifling. If you trace the necessary concate- drawing to a close. Lay aside the assumed nation of human events a very little way air of reckless indifference which you have succeeded in so doing. back, you may perhaps discover that a per- manifested upon your trial. It ill becomes son's very going in or out of a door has been a dying man. When death, which is so the means of coloring with misery or happi meet it with a becoming spirit of contrition ness the remaining current of his life." The and humility. With you the cares and sorsubject of our sketch is quite certain that if rows of this world will soon be over. Eterhe had not been appointed one of the appraisers to appraise the property of a de- fore Whom you must so seen appear. ceased person in Dorchester, Massachusetts, his children and grand children, if any, would have been somebody else.

continued to practice law, and was thus engaged until October, 1852, when he succeeded Judge Dickey, who had resigned, as Judge of the Ninth Judicial Circuit, composed of the counties of Kendall, La Salle, Bureau, Putnam, Marshall and Livingston. He was elected to fill the unexpired portion of the term, and served about three years, that you be taken from hence to the com-He then again resumed the practice of the mon jail of this county-that you be there law, and continued until he was appointed, in 1866, by the Governor to fill a short vacancy caused by the resignation of Judge in said county, to be selected by the sheriff Hollister, who had been appointed as consul thereof, and that between the hours of nine to Buenos Ayres.

1878, he was elected Judge of the Sixth Cir. God have mercy upon your soul. cuit for another term of six years ; and dur-

to being an object of charity under just such

Owing to circumstances beyond his conto take the same interest in the controversies of others that he once did, and the active duties of his professional life are now sub-

During his service as Judge he was of course called upon to act in many important eases, but the case which attracted the attention of the public as much or more than any other was that of The People vs. George Gates for the murder of Daniel Liley, it being the only instance in this county of a conviction where there was an execution on the scuffold. The motive for the crime was to obtain the money which Liley had about his person. and the instrument used was a scythe with out a snath attached, and the place of the 1st vol., it is unnecessary to say anything killing was not far from the boundary line between La Salle and Livingston co nties. The scythe had been purchased by Liley in in the war of the rebellion, and that, of the place of killing, Gates having carried the serving about three years each. scythe at the places where the parties were seen along their route. The details are, peraffirmed. It is reported in the 14th Ill. p. 433. Some who read this sketch may re member the execution, and also recollect seeing the rain-drenched crowd of men. women and children, who also came to witcountry. On one Sunday evening in 1841 a ness it. The sentence of the court was as follows, as published in the FREE TRADER:

After a protracted trial, in which you inals, was shot and killed in his own yard, which the humane policy of the law proin the presence of his wife. On the follow. vides for the accused, defended by counsel ing day there was intense excitement, and a who, with marked zeal and ability, have large number of people assembled. From urged every consideration tending to show information then obtained certain persons of deliberation bee, and tried with cautious the name of Driscoll were suspected, and it judiced jury of far more than ordinary inhaving been discovered that horses had been telligence, you have been guilty of the cool, hitched in a thicket near by, a trail made by premeditated and malicious murder of a was roused by anger, nor to avenge a wrong, where these persons lived. The father and with no palliating circumstance to entitle you two grown up sons were taken to a grove to sympathy, but with sole motive of an unhallowed desire of gain.

Ot the truth of the finding of the jury, the Court entertains neither a reasonable or an and the eldest son were executed by shoot- imaginary doubt. Although the character of 15th, 1868, he conveyed to it Block 10 of the ing. After this many of the criminal class the evidence was entirely circumstantial, State's Addition, and Lots 5 and 6 in Block left the country, and the condition of society became much better. The excuse for such became much better. The excuse for such to doubt, and which irresistibly compelled cates of stock to the amount of five hundred summary work was that the evil had become the mind to the conclusion that Daniel Siley so serious that there seemed to be no other was by you most foully and inhumanly mur adequate remedy. As some five or six prominent citizens had been threatened with a fire-distribution—with the outward semblance of friendship—with a smile upon your face, held are signed by J. D. Caton, president, fate similar to that of Campbell, it may be kindness in your tone and manner, and said that ome more speedy and certain remsaid that some more speedy and certain remeded that to be obtained through the edy than that to be obtained through the land that to be obtained through the determination to destroy him in order to de.

Aug 5th, 1873. Buildings of the company were built on the land sold. No divided were built on the land sold. No divided has ever been paid on this \$1,000 worth of large through the land sold. Settled has ever been paid on this \$1,000 worth of undersigned, administrative, for other estate of said. courts of law was absolutely necessary as a prive him of the hard earned fruits of his stock, and thus far the investment has been means of self-defense. At any rate, those industry; and that in the solitude of that a dead loss. It would, therefore, seem that who had been threatened with loss of their prairie, where his body is now mouldering during these many years the business of the Mo lives declined to wait for their legal repre. away, with yet light enough to strike surely company has been transacted without any and with the darkness, upon which you re. profits. If this be so, the public should be sentatives to pursue a more regular and law lied for concealment, just closing around grateful to the directors and managers of the you, you perpetrated the horrid deed which company for the indomitable energy and While in Ogle county Judge Leland and has not only destroyed your unfortunate and unsuspecting victim, but which by the Judge Ford, who then resided at Oregon, law of the land, under the sentence of the stances, because, though of no benefit to the agreed to enter into partnership in the prac | Court, now about to be passed upon you, will stockholders, it certainly has contributed to tice of the law, and they went together by soon terminate your existence upon earth, and place you at another bar to enter upon another trial infinitely more momentous than that through which you have just passed. The places, with the intent of selecting a local punishment for such an offense as that which

> wisely so, is death. Under that law, and for the security of the community over which it stretches its protect. ing arm, it is necessary that you should die. from this fate there can be no escape. There is no hope of executive interposition-none

> The enormity of the offense you have comtionally destroyed, render it absolutely ne cessary for the protection of society when, as in this case, a conviction has been legally

> You should therefore consider it as fixed. certain and unavoidable that your life is tast near at hand, shall come, be prepared to nity is at hand. Be ready. Commence immediately to prepare to meet your God, be

I have made these remarks, painful as he never would have met his wife, and that they are to myself, and painful though they may be to you, to impress upon you the full reality of your situation-that you should indulge in no unfounded and delusive hope Upon his return to Ottawa Judge Leland of avoiding the punishment which you so well deserve, and from which, in my judg. ment, there is not the remotest possibility of escape, and that you should devote the few remaining days of your life entirely to the preparation to meet that fate which is in-

Nothing now remains but the performance of the stern and painful duty of pronouncing upon you the sentence of the law, which is, confined until Tuesday, the twenty-eighth day of June next, and that upon that day you be taken from thence to some suitable place o'clock in the forenoon and four o'clock in the afternoon of that day, by and under the In June, 1867, he was elected Judge of the direction of said sheriff, you be hanged by Ninth Circuit for six years, and in June, the neck until you shall be dead-and may

It will be noticed that the day fixed for the last half of this term he served as one the execution was not on Friday. The mo of the Appellate Judges of the Second Dis. tive for this departure from a common cus triet, having been assigned by the Judges of tom was to not aid and encourage the popu the Supreme Court to discharge that duty. lar superstition about Friday being an un-The length of time he was on the bench was lucky day, and to assist in making it as a few months over fifteen years. During all respectable as the other days of the week.

his time he refused to accept and use a rail. The life of Judge Leland, like that of his road pass, but always paid his fare when father has been devoted almost entirely to time ago bought the old Richard Keating traveling, believing that the pass was sent to the practice of the law and the performance dwelling, near La Fayette street bridge, west him as judge, and not as a man, and that of juncial duties. The advice of his father the motive for sending it was to influence to him when he left for the West was not to his judicial conduct. As these passes were mix with the practice of the law the seeking never sent to him except when he was on the for political preferment but to postpone the beach, it is to be supposed that they were latter till he had acquired a competency, and not merely charitable gifts, or friendly offer to attend to it then, and not before, if he felt ings; but, even if this were so, he objected so in lined. Thus far the inclination has not become strong enough, and it is too late in life now to expect that it ever will. So much more of the kind of competency men law in that and adjoining counties with good trol, or possibly because he had some old tioned being necessary now than when the success. In 1840 he went to Boston, and fashioned scruples about using some of the advi e was given, may be an additional reamore effective means by which circumstances son. He su-peces, however, the true reason are now controlled in such cases, he was not may be that he has no taste for such things. re-lected in 1879. After 1879 he again Shortly before Lovejoy was first elected he practiced law a while, but he has now ceased called upon Judge Leland and said to him hat if he desired to become a candidate he Lovejoy) would not be one Judge Leland said to him that he had no desire for such a position and that he would be happy to assist him if he had.

As a believer in the equal rights of his fellow men, and as an uncompromising opponent to the institution of human slavery, Judge Leland took an active part in the formation of the republican party in this state, and drafted a series of resolutions, in one of which the party was named, which resolutions were adopted at a mass meeting hell at Ortawa on August 1st, A. D. 1854 As a full account of the formation of the party, and of the declaration of its principles, with the names of those who took acive part, can be found in the history of the county published last year, at p. 261 of the say in this connection that his only two sons. George M. and Sherman, enlisted as soldiers Ottawa, and the two had walked together to course, they fought on the anti-slavery side.

Judge Leland never sought to be etected to any office as a member of the party. He was, however, undoubtedly once voted for THE PLACE TO BUY AND SELL. haps unimportant. The case went to the by the party generally and elected as Mayor Supreme Court, where the judgment was of Ottawa. He has also been a member of the Board of Education of the city, and president thereof. He was also one of the national committee which called the convention at which Fremont was nominated for President of the United States.

While on the Board of Education, he and his brother members managed to build several of the school buildings now in use, but the obstacles and difficulties then in their way cannot well be appreciated now. He have had the benefit of all those safegards has also in other ways contributed to the growth of Ottawa by his efforts, though, as is usually the case, the leading motive may have been self-interest. He believes that the erection of the bridge across the feeder near its junction with the canal, and of the one now located across the canal on Chestnut street, was in a great measure the result of his efforts, and that without such efforts they would not have been built until a much later brother man; not committed while the blood date, if at all. He sold, to be used for that purpose, the land upon which the manufactory of King & Hamilton is now located; also that where the Ottawa Glass Works now are, and that where the manufacture of lamp chimneys is carried on by Chappelle & Co. In the case of the Ottawa Glass Co., on Jan. dollars each-one for himself, and one for perseverance with which they have carried

> the growth and prosperity of the city. Many amusing and humorous incidents, happening during Judge Lelan I's practice and while he held court, and many droll and witty things said by his brethren of the bar, might be added to this sketch, but it is already too long to be made longer merely for

Upon looking back over his past life, he charged his duty while acting for the public, and that he has always during his practice as a lawyer been true to the interests of the many clients who have placed their confidence in him. He has no opinion to express as to the ability with which these dutles have been true to the second the decrease of the many clients who have placed their confidence in him. He has no opinion to express as to the ability with which these dutles have been true to the second true to the interests of the many clients who have placed their confidence in him. He has no opinion to express the true to the interests of the many clients who have placed their confidence in him. He has no opinion to express that my office, and I will drive you through Hyde Park, and show you lots and acres that I can be turned paickly. I handle specialities only that can be turned paickly, and have every facility for buying, selling and improving subtributed for the public, and that he has always during his practice as a lawyer been true to the interests of the many clients who have placed their confidence in him. He has no opinion to express that my office, and I will drive you through Hyde Park, and show you lots and acres that I can be turned paickly. I handle specialities only that can be turned paickly. I handle specialities only that can be turned paickly. I handle specialities only that can be turned paickly. I have been true to the interests of the province of the have been performed. Of this others must judge from their own observation and exper ence, or other appropriate information. He also feels that in his business transactions with his fellow men he has endeav. ored to deal with them fairly and justly, and he hopes that he may have always

NEW.-Mr. Barrido, a glass blower, some of the side cut, and is fixing it up very con. tortably for his future home

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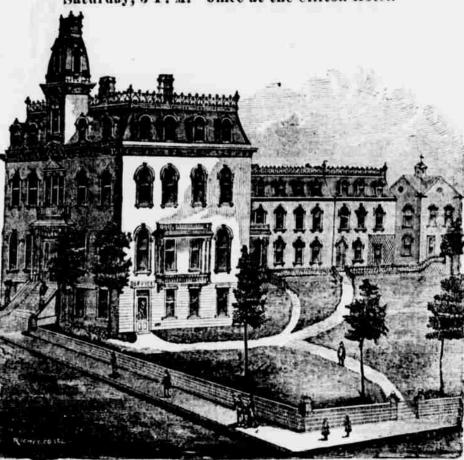
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s and histories of these remarkable cases, and for hundreds more. All correspond

